

In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

Please cancel claim 27 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Original) A remote access control system adapted to enable the remote control access to one or more value units by one or more operators, the system including:
  - a central control means including control data including an identity structure relating to the permissible behaviour of an access controller and access control data defining operator control over the access controller;
  - one or more access controller, each adapted to selectively prevent or enable access to a value unit;
  - one or more operator control unit, including actuating means, adapted to enable interaction of an operator with the control system;
  - first communication means adapted to provide remote communication between the central control means and one or more operator control unit;
  - second communication means adapted to provide remote communication between an operator control unit and one or more access controller;
  - and wherein when communication of identity structure to an access controller unit is required, a virtual configuration link is created between the central control means and the access controller for that value unit, via an operator control unit, for the transfer of the identity structure from the central control means to the access controller to initialise the access controller and so allow the access control data to gain access to the access controller.
2. (Original) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the identity structure includes an application template and configuration data.
3. (Previously presented) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the access control data includes operator control unit identification data, operator identification data and access controller identification data.

4. (Original) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the access control data further includes data relating to the conditions for permissible access.

5. (Previously presented) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the identity structure is encrypted and can only be deciphered by selected access controllers and the central control means.

6. (Original) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the control data is encrypted.

7. (Original) A remote access control system according to claim 1 wherein the identity structure is inaccessible to an operator of an operator control unit.

8. (Previously presented) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first communication means includes a wide area communications network.

9. (Previously presented) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second communication means includes a wide area communications network.

10. (Original) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 8 wherein the second communication means includes a local communications link.

11. (Previously presented) A remote access control system according to claim 1 wherein each access controller includes recordal means adapted to record data relating to the conditions or circumstances of its associated value unit.

12. (Original) A remote access control system according to claim 11 wherein the data recorded includes the conditions or circumstances of operator access.

13. (Previously presented) A remote access control system according to claim 11 wherein the data recorded is transferred to the central control means, via the virtual configuration link.

14. (Previously presented) A remote access control system according to claim 1 wherein each access controller includes a locking mechanism and an electronic control device.

15. (Original) A method of remotely controlling access to a value unit through a control system by an operator including:

providing, at a central control means, access control data relating to the control of access to a value unit by an associated access controller;

providing, at the central control means, an identity structure relating to the permissible behaviour of the access controller;

operating an operator control unit via actuating means to interact with the control system;

forming a virtual configuration link between the central control means and the access controller, via the operator control unit, for transfer of the identity structure from the central control means to the access controller via first communication means providing remote communication between the central control means and the operator control unit and second communication means providing remote communication between the operator control unit and the access controller, the identity structure initialising the access controller to allow the access control data to gain access to the access controller and therefore enable access to the value unit.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15 wherein the identity data is encrypted and can only be deciphered by selected access controllers.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 15 wherein the control data is encrypted.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15 wherein the first communication means includes a wide area communications network.

19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15 wherein the second communication means includes a wide area communications network.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15 wherein the second communication means includes a local communications link.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 15 further including recording of data relating to the conditions or circumstances of the value unit by the access controller and transferring this data to the central control means via the virtual configuration link.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the data recorded includes the conditions or circumstances of operator access of the value unit.

23-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) A remote access control system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the identity structure is thereafter removed from the access controller.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15 further including removing the identity structure from the access controller.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The remote access system of claim 27, A remote access control system adapted to enable the remote control of access to one or more value units by one or more operators, the system including:

at least one access controller, to selectively prevent or enable access to a value unit;  
a central controller operable to generate control data including an identity structure relating to the permissible behaviour of at least a selected one of the at least one access controller and access control data defining operator control over the access controller;

at least one operator control unit to enable interaction of an operator with the control system, communicate with the central controller and the at least one access controller and receive and store access control data from the central controller;

a first transmitter and receiver pair for the central controller and the at least one

operator control unit respectively, to provide remote communication between the central controller and the at least one operator control unit;

a second transmitter and receiver pair provided with the at least one operator control unit and the at least one access controller respectively, to provide remote communication between the at least one operator control unit and the at least one access controller;

wherein a selected access controller prevents or enables access to a value unit based on the access control data and the identity structure, and when one of communication and update of an identity structure for the selected access controller is required, a virtual configuration link is created between the central controller and the access controller for that value unit, via an operator control unit, for the transfer of the identity structure from the central control means to the access controller, wherein the processes of communication and update of the identity structure using said second transmitter and receiver pair occurs automatically so that an operator can not communicate access control data from an operator control unit to an access controller without communicating or updating the identity structure if a said virtual configuration link has been created;

wherein the access controller is capable of being initialized, to allow the access control data to be used by the access controller to select whether to enable or prevent access to a value unit, through said virtual configuration link.

29. (Currently Amended) The remote access system of claim 27 28, wherein information communicated over said virtual configuration link is encrypted.

30. (Currently Amended) The remote access system of claim 27 28, wherein each access controller and operator control unit is operable to communicate information from an access controller to the central controller through the virtual communication link.

31. (Currently Amended) The remote access system of claim 27 28, wherein each operator control is capable of serving as part of a plurality of said virtual configuration links between the central controller and a plurality of said access controllers.